

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/SE:BSCARLIS:JF

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 167548

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, CY, TU

SUBJECT: CYPRUS CHARGE CALLS ON DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY
LAINGEN

1. CYPRUS CHARGE ANGELIDES CALLED JULY 14 ON DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LAINGEN TO HIGHLIGHT REPORTS THAT THE TURKS INTENDED TO DECLARE AN INDEPENDENT STATE ON CYPRUS. SUCH A STEP, ANGELIDES SAID, WOULD BE TANTAMOUNT TO PARTITION. IT WOULD BRING THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS TO A DEAD END, AND CREATE AN EXPLOSIVE SITUATION ON THE ISLAND. ANGELIDES REQUESTED THAT WE USE OUR INFLUENCE WITH TURKISH GOVERNMENT TO FORESTALL A UNILATERAL DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

2. LAINGEN REPLIED THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THAT THE TURKISH-CYPRIOTS COULD OBTAIN ANKARA'S PERMISSION TO
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ISSUE A UNILATERAL DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE. SUCH A

STEP WOULD CREATE A NEGATIVE REACTION IN THE CONGRESS, THREATEN VIENNA III, AND UNDERMINE ANKARA'S OWN DESIRE TO CREATE AN IMPROVED NEGOTIATING ATMOSPHERE. WE ASSUME GOT REMAINS OPPOSED TO PARTITION SINCE IT FEARS SUCH A STEP WOULD PUSH THE GREEK-CYPRIOTS INTO ENOSIS. LAINGEN ADDED WE WOULD BE ON THE ALERT FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE UP THIS MATTER WITH ANKARA.

3. ANGELIDES ALSO BROUGHT UP THE EXPULSION OF GREEK-CYPRIOTS FROM NORTHERN CYPRUS, POINTING OUT THAT, IN RECENT DAYS, GREEK-CYPRIOTS WERE FORCED OUT OF KYRENIA IN SMALL GROUPS. HE NOTED THAT SUCH "PIECEMEAL TACTICS" WERE ANOTHER INDICATION OF TURKEY'S LONG-RANGE PLANS TO CHANGE THE DEMOGRAPHIC COMPOSITION OF THE ISLAND.

4. LAINGEN SAID THAT UNILATERAL ACTIONS, BY EITHER SIDE, ONLY EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR A RAPID SETTLEMENT OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM. LAINGEN

ADDED THAT WE COULD DO LITTLE ABOUT SUCH UNILATERAL ACTIONS UNTIL WE HAD MORE LEVERAGE IN ANKARA -- I.E., UNTIL THE ARMS BAN AGAINST TURKEY WAS LIFTED.

5. IN RESPONSE TO ANGELIDES' QUERY WHETHER -- IF CONGRESS LIFTS THE EMBARGO -- THE TURKS WOULD COMPROMISE ON CYPRUS, LAINGEN REPLIED THAT HE COULD NOT ASSURE THIS BUT FELT THERE WERE MANY FACTORS INFLUENCING THE TURKS TO DECIDE IN THEIR OWN INTEREST TO SHOW FLEXIBILITY. MOREOVER, AS UNDERSECRETARY SISCO STRESSED LAST WEEK IN CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY, ANKARA'S RESPONSE TO A LIFTING OF THE BAN WOULD GO TO THE HEART OF THE US-TURKISH RELATIONSHIP.

6. IN THE COURSE OF THE CONVERSATION, LAINGEN AGAIN TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO WARN AGAINST ANY THREATENING ACTIONS TOWARD THE EMBASSY, PARTICULARLY DURING THIS WEEK WHEN MANY DEMONSTRATIONS WERE PLANNED IN NICOSIA IN REMEMBRANCE OF LAST SUMMER'S TRAGEDY. KISSINGER

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